

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-12

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R 021152Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1708

INFO CINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMNAVACTS ROTA

16TH AF TORREJON

JUSMAAG SPAIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

UNCLAS MADRID 2992

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, SP

SUBJ: BASE NEGOTIATIONS: PRESS REACTION TO JOINT

US/GREEK STATEMENT ON BASE NEGOTIATIONS

1. APRIL 30 EDITION OF EVENING DAILY "INFORMACIONES" (INDEPENDENT) PROVIDED FRONT PAGE TREATMENT TO SPECULATION THAT CLOSURE OF BASES IN GREECE PORTENDED CONVERSION OF ROTA INTO "SUPERBASE".

2. ARTICLE STATES "THIS APPARENTLY AUGMENTS VALUE OF SPANISH BASE OF ROTA ON WHICH PRINCIPAL LEADERS OF PENTAGON HAVE SET THEIR SIGHTS AND ASPIRATIONS."

3. ARTICLE GOES ON TO NOTE THAT U.S. "WITHDRAWAL" FROM GREECE COINCIDES IN EFFECT WITH MOE THAN PROBABLE U.S. DEPARTURE FROM AZORES AND WITH SPANISH/US NEGOTIATIONS FOR "REVISION" OF MILITARY AGREEMENTS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. "ACCORDING TO INFORMED SOURCES, THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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PROCEEDING WELL ON TRACK."

4. DESPITE EVIDENT FACT THAT U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN SPAIN IS NOT POPULAR," ARTICLE STATES, "ALMOST NO ONE DOUBTS THAT MILITARY AGREEMENTS BETWEEN BOTH EXECUTIVES WILL BE SIGNED WITH GRAND DECLARATIONS OF MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP. WASHINGTON DESIRES ABOVE ALL TO UPGRADE ROTA, KEY TO ITS PRESENCE IN MEDITERRANEAN. IN EXCHANGE, IT MIGHT AS A CONCESSION--BASICALLY TO REDUCE ITS OWN DEFENSE BUDGET EXPENDITURES--LEAVE AIR BASE OF TORREJON, AND MORON AS WELL. IN EXCHANGE, IT WOULD UPGRADE AS WELL THE BASE OF ZARAGOZA."

5. ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT UPGRADING OF ROTA WOULD INCREASE RISKS FOR SPAIN IN CASE OF EVENTUAL CONFRONTATION, AND THEN POSES QUESTIONS:

- A. WHAT IS U.S. DISPOSED TO CONCEDE IN EXCHANGE
- B. THIS IS POSSIBLY THE ESSENCE OF CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS. TO WHAT POINT IS U.S. TO GUARANTEE THE DEFENSE OF SPAIN?
- C. HOW MANY DOLLARS IN ARMAMENTS AND OTHER ITEMS OF MERCHANDISE WOULD U.S. BE DISPOSED TO PROVIDE?

6. APRIL 30 EDITION OF NATIONAL MOVEMENT DAILY "ARRIBA" REFERS TO ROTA AS FORWARD LINE OF DEFENSE IN LIGHT OF GREEK BASES DEVELOPMENT, WHICH COINCIDES CURIOUSLY WITH SOVIET NAVAL MANEUVERS, "WHICH CANNOT BE IGNORED". THUS, ARTICLE STATES, ROTA WILL BE FORWARD LINE OF DEFENSE INSIDE OF ONLY TWO YEARS. "NOW IS TIME TO FIND OUT IF MADRID IS INTERESTED IN SIGNING AGREEMENTS WHICH COULD PLACE IT IN DIFFICULT SITUATION IN CONTEXT OF CONFRONTATION BETWEEN SUPERPOWERS, WHEN NATO IS DISSOLVING AND SEARCHING FOR ITS OWN ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN THE TWO ADVERSARIES. IF THIS IS CASE, PRICE MUST BE NOT ONLY HIGH BUT GARNISHED WITH CONTRACT WHICH PROVIDES ABSOLUTELY COMPLETE GUARANTEES FOR (IBERIAN) PENINSULA. IF THEY ARE NOT FORTHCOMING, THEN TO SIGN WOULD BE SUICIDE IN LIGHT OF SOMETHING AS CLEAR AS THE "OKEAN TWO" (SOVIET NAVAL MANEUVERS." STABLER

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